

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 181977

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181977

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 181977 ACTION BUENOS AIRES INFO MONTEVIDEO
JUL 23, 76

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181977

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUG, AR

SUBJECT: REFUGEE SITUATION

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4740

1. IN LIGHT OF EMBASSY REPORTS ON REFUGEE SITUATION, ESPECIALLY AS SET FORTH IN REFTEL, ASST. SECY SHLAUDEMAN CALLED IN AMB. MUSICH AFTERNOON OF JULY 22 TO DISCUSS REFUGEES IN GENERAL AND ALLEGED KIDNAPPING OF 30 URUGUAYANS IN PARTICULAR.

2. SHLAUDEMAN SAID THAT IN FRAMEWORK OF SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S PROBLEMS HE WISHED TO RAISE A SITUATION THAT CAUSES US CONCERN -- THE DIFFICULTIES OF REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA. WE HAVE, HE POINTED OUT, PROBLEMS IN THE US
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PAGE 02 STATE 181977

REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS WITH CONGRESS, THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS. THE ARGENTINE CASE IS ADMITTEDLY DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS IN THAT STRONG SUBVERSIVE GROUPS ARE CLEARLY SEEKING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT. HE RECALLED THAT HE

HAD BEEN IN CHILE WHEN SANTUCHO ARRIVED BY PLANE AFTER THE LATTER'S PRISON ESCAPE IN ARGENTINA AND NOTED WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT THIS KIND OF SITUATION. WE MUST BE CONCERNED BY THE REFUGEE SITUATION, HOWEVER, AND PARTICULARLY BY CERTAIN SPECIFIC CASES. SHLAUDEMANN NOTED THAT WE

ARE RECEIVING TELEGRAMS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE 30 URUGUAYAN REFUGEES ALLEGEDLY KIDNAPPED LAST WEEK WHO HAVE NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE.

3. EMPHASIZING THE POINT THAT IT IS THE PLIGHT OF 30 URUGUAYAN REFUGEES ESPECIALLY THAT CAUSES US CONCERN, THE ASST. SECY ASKED MUSICH TO REPORT THIS CONVERSATION TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND SEEK TO ASSURE THAT THESE REFUGEES DO NOT COME TO HARM. IF THIS COULD BE DONE IT WOULD BE A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD IN OUR RELATIONS, HE SAID.

4. AMB. MUSICH REPLIED THAT THE GOA INCLUDING VIDELA IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT HE WAS PLEASED THIS MATTER HAD BEEN RAISED AND SO CLEARLY. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE CONVERSATION IMMEDIATELY. ALTHOUGH HE COULD OFFER NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN THE CASE OF THE 30 URUGUAYANS, HE FELT HIS REPORT OF THE CONVERSATION WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER CLOSELY. WITH THE DISMEMBERMENT OF THE ERP, MUSICH HOPED THE SITUATION WOULD IMPROVE SOON. HE THEN ASKED THE SOURCE OF OUR INFORMATION AND WAS TOLD THE UNHCR IN ADDITION TO VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS.

5. ASST. SECY SHLAUDEMANN AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THOSE WAGING WAR ON THE GOA AND THE REFUGEES IN GENERAL, ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT A FEW OF THE REFUGEES MAY HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE TERRORISTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 181977

6. AT THE INVITATION OF THE AMBASSADOR, COUNSELOR BEAUGE, WHO ACCOMPANIED MUSICH, NOTED THAT RECENTLY 26 CHILEANS HAD DEPARTED FOR CANADA AND 46 OTHER REFUGEES OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES WERE ALSO ABOUT TO LEAVE.

7. THE CONVERSATION ENDED WITH MUTUAL EXPRESSIONS OF READINESS TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF PREVENTING MISUNDERSTANDINGS HARMFUL TO US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. ROBINSON UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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